REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 remain unchanged. Claims 16-28 were previously withdrawn, as being drawn to a non-elected invention. The election was made without traverse.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Markkanen et al (US Patent Application Publication U.S. 2003/0189096). The Examiner argued that "Markkanen teaches a wireless mobile device adapted to access a wireless network comprising a subscriber identification module (SIM) card slot (Page 1, [0006] and a contactless smart card reader/writer module electrically connected to said wireless mobile phone via said SIM card slot (Page 2, [0024]) and wherein said contact less smart card reader/writer module is adapted to receive and read information stored in a contactless smart card and transmit said information to an entity via said wireless network (Page 1,[0034], [0006], [0044]; Page 2, [0020-[0024])"

The Applicant believes that the above mentioned statement is again incorrect. Markkanen et al does not mention in the entire specification of the cited reference the term "card slot" or "SIM card slot" and certainly it does not mention connecting a card reader to the mobile phone via the non-existent SIM card slot. On the contrary, according to Markkanen et al, the connection of the ISO 14443 reader to the smart card 14 of the mobile terminal 12 is via the antenna 14a (see FIG. 1 of Markkanen et al and page 2, [0019]).

We would like to point out the following differentiation of the present invention from Markkanen et al. According to claim 1, the wireless mobile device of this invention comprises a slot for receiving a SIM card and a reader/writer module that is adapted to receive contactless smart cards. The reader/writer module is electrically connected to the wireless mobile device via the SIM card slot. Markkanen's mobile phone 12 connects to card reader 20 via a contactless connection 18 through the antenna 14a. This has nothing

to do with the content of claim 1 of the present invention. Accordingly, the 102 rejection of claim 1 based on Markkanen et al is overcome.

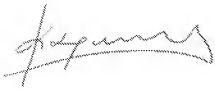
Claims 2-15 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 1 and since claims 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited prior art they should also be distinguishable from the cited prior art either alone or in combination with any other prior art.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that co-pending application US 10/808,697, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURELY STORING, GENERATING, TRANSFERRING AND PRINTING ELECTRONIC PREPAID VOUCHERS" which is a continuation in part of the present application was recently allowed and the Examiner argued in his Reasons for Allowance that connecting a smart card reader/writer module via a SIM card slot is unique. He also argued that "This particular configuration has the following two advantages: a) universality in the connectivity of the card reader/writer by connecting it to the SIM card slot, rather than to a parallel or serial port of the communication device; and b) secure authentication through the SIM card module of the communication device." Applicant believes that the same arguments are valid in the present case which is a parent case for US 10/808,697 and where a contactless smartcard reader is connected to a witeless mobile device via the SIM card slot.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the final rejection is requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

If this response is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at 617-558-5389

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence is being electronically submitted on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450